

Thoughts from Senator Pam Jochum re Workgroup B assignment, Smart Planning Task Force
Prepared 9/6/10

1. A new stand alone department needs to be created to collect, integrate, manage, all planning documents, guidelines, principles, and GI information for the following reasons:

- communicates that planning based on sound information to develop, conserve, protect the land and properties from flooding is a high priority
- communicates the importance of planning and to develop a culture of planning that integrates housing, economic development, transportation, and conservation of natural resources
- eliminates any fallout or perceived biases (if the functions are placed within IDED or DNR or IDALS or IDOT, or ISAC, or any other existing department or organization, there will be "fallout" before we even get started; we need an office that has a chance of being trusted and respected. Existing departments and organizations have their supporters and detractors. Existing departments have varying levels of trust and respect. This is too important to be housed within an existing structure. The importance of smart, comprehensive planning must be communicated as strongly as possible.
- some funding that is currently being spent on duplication of information systems within multiple departments and organizations can be shifted to the new office of planning and flood mitigation to offset start up costs; regardless of the how or where these vital services are located, additional funding will be required, so let's start fresh with a new department.
- technical expertise can be readily available to help local/regional units develop and implement

2. Financial incentives have to be used to motivate cities, counties, regions to develop and implement a comprehensive plan that integrates smart planning principles. Incentives would include upfront funding as well as withholding funding.

3. The plans have to encompass an entire watershed in order to take into account the impact of upstream changes on downstream communities and farmsteads.